

PRESIDENT'S ACTION REPRESENTS ABUSE OF LINE ITEM VETO AUTHORITY

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the President's decision yesterday to line item veto 38 military construction projects.

The President's action represents a blatant violation of the budget agreement reached earlier this year between the executive and the legislative branches. Funding for the projects included in this year's military construction appropriations bill was entirely within the cap set forth by that agreement.

The President's action represents a clear abuse of the line item veto authority. In the case of the projects for Naval Station Mayport in my district the pier improvements in question are necessary to meet near-term home porting requirements set forth by the Navy. These improvements will be built at a later date but at a higher cost to the taxpayers.

The President acted based on false information provided by the Office of Management and Budget. According to OMB and the President, the Mayport project did not begin construction until fiscal year 1998. This is patently untrue and I advised OMB of that last week. This project would have begun construction in June of 1998.

The President's action was an abuse of his power and authority. Every Member needs to be on notice we need to remind the President that the Founding Fathers did not intend this body to be a rubber stamp.

CONGRESS SHOULD DO REAL EDUCATION REFORM

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today Democrats are very concerned about education in America. We want to rebuild our schools. We want to upgrade our schools. We want to repair our schools. We believe that is the way to help local communities. The Republicans, on the other hand, believe the way to do it is to take money out of public schools and put it into vouchers.

The fact of the matter is that the majority of American students, nine out of ten, will go to public schools. Under their voucher program, a few people, under an experimental program, will get money to go to vouchers, the very poor. That will leave the middle class and the working class in public schools and classrooms that are sub par.

A third of our Nation's schools need extensive repair or replacement. One-half of our schools have major environmental problems, such as poor ventila-

tion, asbestos, poor heating or lighting. We have overcrowding in many of our Nation's schools. We need to help local communities rebuild America's education infrastructure. We need to put money in public education where it really counts, and that is rebuilding and upgrading American schools. I urge Congress to do real education reform.

CAMPAIGN REFORM SHOULD FREE THE PAYCHECKS OF AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, imagine the outcry if your utility company added to your bill money that you would have to pay to support their political agenda, and each year you would have to give the utility company hundreds of dollars so they could push for their political agenda, support their political candidates and protect their monopoly.

Well, it happens every month here in America. Working men and women are forced to pay compulsory dues used for political ploys which they do not support. Forced to fund campaigns. Forced to fund candidates. And they do not have a voice in how the money is spent.

The Supreme Court said it was illegal to do it in the Beck decision, but the administration through Executive order deliberately chose not to uphold the Court's decision. Thomas Jefferson said it was tyranny and a sin to force our citizens to financially support political agendas with which they disagreed.

Americans know it is wrong. Campaign reform should not and must not occur without freeing the paychecks of American workers.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN A CRISIS

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we need to do more for the education of our children. In my home State of Ohio education is in a crisis, and yet we make decisions to take tax dollars from working moms and dads and give those tax dollars to wealthy urban areas so that they can build sports stadiums.

I received a letter from a local school superintendent who said, "Dear Ted, I want to thank you for your article in the Portsmouth Daily Times about putting the education of our children above the building of sports stadiums. It is going to take tough decisions to solve the school funding problem."

Then he says, "It is so unfair for our students to have academic classes in an old remodeled tiny locker room, and yet a new stadium is the priority."

"Last week," he said, "I had to move a kindergarten class out into the hall-

way because of sewer gas fumes. There were no empty spare rooms to hold the children for such an emergency."

Mr. Speaker, we need to support public education in order to educate our children in the way they deserve to be educated.

□ 1030

HERE WE GO AGAIN

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. First it was Whitewater, then Travelgate, then Filegate, then White House phone calls. And if that was not enough, now we have a thing called Laundrygate.

Three of Ron Carey's political consultants pled guilt to a money-laundering scheme which has caused the 1996 Teamsters election to be overturned. Their cooperation with Federal prosecutors has shed new light on how to raise laundered money. And to no one's surprise, it seems the White House and DNC and several lobbying groups have been implicated.

Mr. Carey claims he was a victim. The Clinton/Gore campaign and DNC say they know nothing about it. Yet, when you follow the money, the money trail points right to them, in their direction.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am beginning to wonder who exactly is in control. Maybe it is the guy next door, perhaps even more than they care to admit. I really wonder.

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is October, Lupus Awareness Month.

Many people have not heard of lupus. It is a disease that is extremely widespread but not well-known. We have an immune system which protects our bodies against viruses, bacteria, and other foreign materials. However, a person who has lupus, their immune system, which is supposed to be their protector, becomes the attacker.

Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of lupus is the fact that there is no cure. I know this from firsthand experience, having lost a sister and very close friend to lupus.

I have introduced a bill (H.R. 1111), the Lupus Research and Care Amendment Act of 1997, which would increase research and deliver essential services to individuals with lupus and their families.

Think about it; many of my colleagues have people in their family who suffer from lupus. It is a young woman's disease. It usually attacks women in their childbearing years. It is